

Testosterone

tes-TOS-te-rone

Brand Name: Androgel, Testoderm, Androderm, Depo-Testosterone

Testosterone, also known as Androderm, Androgel, Depo-Testosterone, and Testoderm, belongs to the class of medicines known as androgens. Androgens are male hormones. Some androgens, including testosterone, are naturally produced by the body. Prescribed androgens work by replacing the hormones that would normally be produced by the body, but because of disease or other medical condition, the hormone level is too low. The hormone testosterone is necessary for male sexual development and functioning and for maintaining muscle strength and mass. Testosterone is approved by the FDA for hormone replacement in men who have low levels of testosterone.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Although the practice is not yet approved by the FDA, testosterone is used for the treatment of AIDS wasting syndrome. Testosterone is also used to increase muscle mass and decrease body fat in HIV patients.

Dosage Information

Testosterone comes in injection, gel, ointment, and patch forms. The injection form is injected into muscle. The gel form is applied to clean, dry skin on the back or upper abdomen. Patches are applied to the clean, shaved scrotum, abdomen, back, thighs, or arms.

Contraindications

Patients should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, testosterone can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine are listed below. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects:

For men: abnormal ejaculation; breast soreness or enlargement; frequent, long-lasting (up to 4 hours), or painful erection; frequent urge to urinate; or prostate problems.

For women: absent or unusual menstrual cycles; acne or oily skin when it occurs with decreased breast size; hoarse or deepened voice; increased size of genitals; or increased hair growth or male pattern baldness. Pregnant women should not use testosterone because of the risk of serious harm to the fetus. Also, pregnant women should avoid skin

contact with testosterone application sites on others because transdermal testosterone can rub off onto them.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include anxiety, depression, or irritability; blistering under the patch (especially when a patch is applied to bony areas); decreased sex drive; diarrhea; dizziness; flushing of the skin; headache; mild acne; nausea; pain, redness, or irritation where the medicine was injected; stomach or back pain; and trouble sleeping. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), and herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Testosterone, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Testosterone AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Testosterone
Unimed Pharmaceuticals Inc
4 Parkway North 2nd floor
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 282-5400

Testosterone



Manufacturer Information (cont.)

Androgel

Unimed Pharmaceuticals Inc
4 Parkway North 2nd floor
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 282-5400

Testoderm

ALZA Corporation
1900 Charleston Road / PO Box 7210
Mountain View, CA 94039-7210
(800) 227-9953

Androderm

Watson Laboratories Inc
311 Bonnie Circle
Corona, CA 92880-2882
(800) 272-5525

Depo-Testosterone

Pharmacia Corporation
100 Route 206 North
Peapack, NJ 07977
(888) 768-5501

Depo-Testosterone

Pfizer Inc
235 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017-5755
(800) 438-1985

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET